Freude am Fluss

Mieux vivre au bord du fleuve

Interreg IIIB project 2003-2008

Activities of Etablissement Public Loire

ETABLISSEMENT PUBLIC LOIRE

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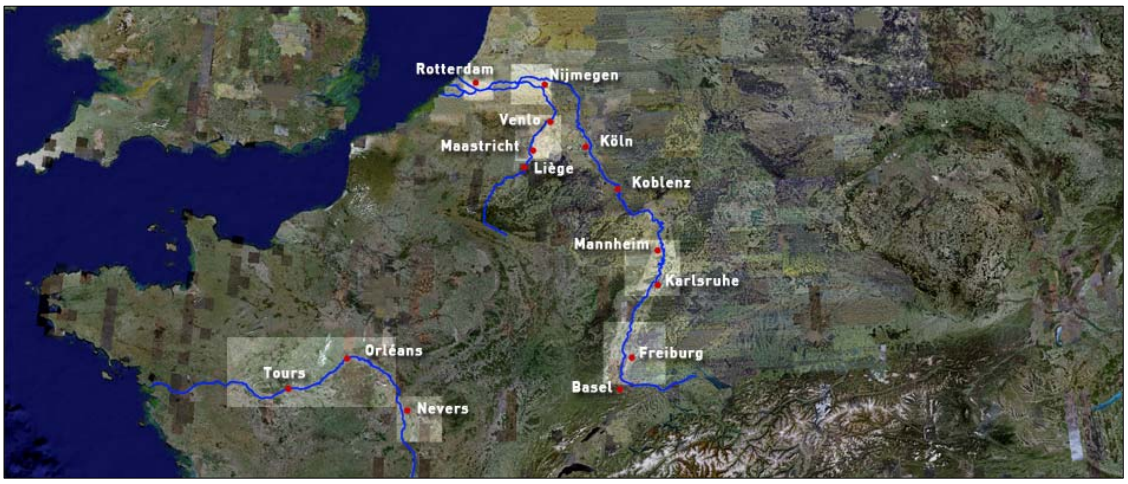
I – Introduction

The focus of the European Interreg IIIB project "*Freude am Fluss* – mieux vivre au bord du fleuve", centred on the Rhine, the Loire and the Meuse, is flood management and sustainable development along dike-protected rivers. Since June 2003 to December 2008 Germany, France and the Netherlands have worked together through a group of partners that combines the social, natural and technical sciences, scientific experts and public authorities.



The Centre for Sustainable Management of Resources at Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands was the lead partner of this project. Almost half of its €8.59M overall budget is financed by Europe (ERDF); the other half is financed by the project's 12 partners.

Etablissement Public Loire (EP Loire) decided, by deliberation on 3rd July 2003, to be a partner of the *Freude am Fluss* project and contribute to it through studies, organising interchanges or covering the working time of the staff for an initial budget of €1.5M over five years.

Initially the project's only French partner, EP Loire encouraged other Loire players to become involved in the project. This resulted in three institutions joining the Etablissement, leading to a new financial breakdown for the French budget:

- The Agence de l'Eau Loire-Bretagne in 2005, with a budget of €300K,
- The Nevers Conurbation Committee (AND) in 2006, with a budget of €150K,
- The University of Tours in 2007, with a budget of €72K,

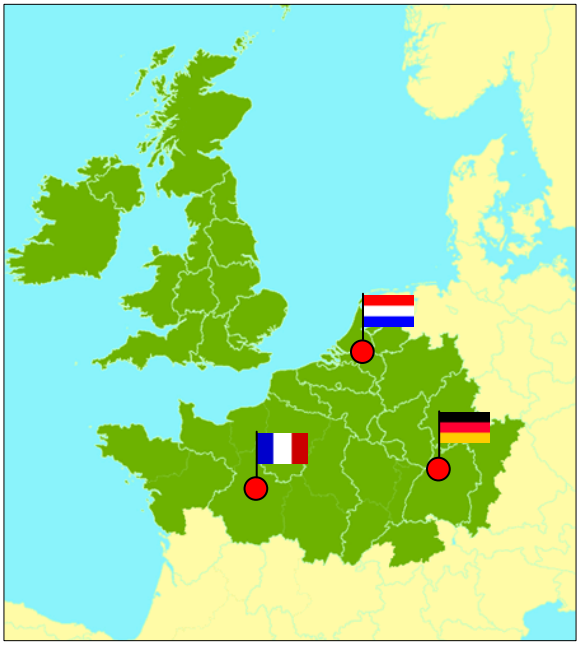
with the Etablissement's budget thus becoming €1.01M.

This document presents **a summary of the activities and actions managed by Etablissement Public Loire** during this project. The accompanying CD-ROM provides the reader who wishes more details on a specific topic with the many communication documents, publications and reports produced in this context.

Additional information about the whole project and the partners' activities is also available on the site www.freudeamfluss.eu.

II – The *Freude am Fluss* project

Institutional framework



INTERREG III is one of the four community initiative programmes put in place by the European Community intended to encourage harmonious, balanced and sustainable development within Europe over the period 2000 - 2006.

Component B of this programme is aimed at transnational cooperation between national, regional and local authorities within large geographical areas pre-defined by the European Commission and the member States. Thirteen areas were defined in this way: the Atlantic Area, North West Europe, South West Europe, etc.

The INTERREG III B programme of aid for North West Europe was the subject of €655M in funding, half of which came from the Community. This programme covers transnational cooperation between Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and France, together with Switzerland as an external partner.

One of its priority objectives is the "*Sustainable development of water resources and the prevention of damages resulting from flooding*", the key actions of which are aimed, among other things, at minimising the damages caused by river floods.

The European *Freude am Fluss* project falls within the scope of this programme.

Freude am Fluss, an ambitious project

A new river management policy is being developed in North West Europe. This new approach is called "*Room for the river*". It entails ending the current policies of continually raising the height of the dykes in the face of an increasing risk of flooding, in favour of projects aimed at giving back the natural expansion areas to the rivers, through alternative management policies based on creating vast floodplains and/or retention basins.

But the implementation of river management policies often encounters strong opposition from local and municipal authorities. The problem often arises because the local players sometimes have a short-term and localised approach that conflicts with the long-term and broader view of the managers. This opposition invariably leads to procedures taking longer, combined with a significant increase in the cost of the operations, even to the outright cancellation of projects.

The *Freude am Fluss* project is an initiative set up by Dutch, French and German government and local authorities, managers, social and technical research centres in response to two requirements:

- Sharing **knowledge**, **experience** and **ideas**,
- Developing an innovative project management policy designed to allow the **constructive involvement of local players** in the consultation procedures.

These two aspects are combined in the *Freude am Fluss* project.

Transnational sharing was implemented by means of "*Intervisions*" that, for the whole duration of the project, bring together all project partners (administrators as well as research institutions) for a special appraisal of the situations and experience each country presents.

An innovative policy will be introduced based on a new content and a new style of implementation so as to eliminate the reluctance of the local authorities towards river management projects taking place in their locality. In the *Freude am Fluss* approach, the specific measures are part of an enormous package of actions designed to also enhance the many cultural and economic activities associated with living with the river. In this way, the Communities and other local players naturally become involved in this consultation procedure, which guarantees them a voice in the debate.

Identifying funding opportunities depending on local interests goes naturally with the project approach. Special attention is given to how these opportunities can be realised for the public and private partners, so as to give financial support to the action policies and reduce public funding.

A project that is organised along five lines

1. Learning from practical cases

By analysing the past, this component aims to learn why room-for-the-river projects succeeded or failed. It examines the extent to which national, regional and local identities were taken into account and issues involving communication, discussion, planning and management of the river and its valleys.

2. Developing a joint planning method

What are the existing methods and how do they operate? What are the views of the experts, local authorities and other players involved on problems experienced? What solutions were found and what procedures were adopted? The answers to these questions should result in an internationally applicable and innovative project planning method.

3. Two regional applications

The joint approach has been implemented in two areas along the Rhine and the Middle Loire. This consists of jointly, and in stages, identifying the problems and alternatives and defining a new joint project for the river, the population and nature.

4. Three local implementations

After consulting with ten communities in the Netherlands, Germany and along the Middle Loire in France, three sites were selected for implementing the Freude am Fluss approach with the aim of defining new development plans. The communities of Fourchambault and Sermoise-sur-Loire in the Nevers conurbation were selected for France.

5. Communication

The Freude am Fluss project is unique in that it involves the residents and their representatives in the shaping of their environment and the economic development of their area. In addition there is an extensive communication component throughout the project, focussing on the communities affected, the public authorities and the public at large.

The project partners

In France…

- Etablissement Public Loire (www.eptb-loire.fr)
- Agence de l'eau Loire-Bretagne (www.eau-loire-bretagne.fr)
- Communauté d'Agglomération de Nevers (Nevers Conurbation Committee) (www.agglo-nevers.fr)
- Université de Tours (www.univ-tours.fr)

In the Netherlands…

- Radboud University Nijmegen - Faculty of Science (lead partner) (www.ru.nl)
- Erasmus University Rotterdam (www.eur.nl/fsw)
- Habiforum (www.habiforum.nl)
- Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Directorate-General of Public Works and Water Management, East Netherlands Division (www.rijkswaterstaat.nl)
- Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Directorate-General of Public Works and Water Management, Road and Hydraulic Engineering Institute (www.rws.nl/rws/dww/home)

In Germany…

- Institut für Landschaftsökologie und Naturschutz (ILN) (www.nabu-bw.de/m07/m07_04/)
- Region Starkenburg (www.region-starkenburg.de)
- Technische Universität Darmstadt (www.iwar.bauing.tu-darmstadt.de/umwr/deutsch/index.htm)

III – Etablissement Public Loire's activities

This chapter provides an overview of the actions carried out by Etablissement Public Loire as part of the *Freude am Fluss* project between 2003 and 2008. These actions have been organised into seven major topics:

- Flood management in the Middle Loire,
- Reducing vulnerability to flooding,
- Consultation tools and methods,
- The Val de Bréhémont pilot consultation procedure,
- Events,
- Support activities and interchanges with the partners,
- Websites.

Flood management in the Middle Loire

European Experts Mission in the Middle Loire

*Organisation of a **European Experts Missions in the Middle Loire**, on 18 - 22 October 2004, between Nevers and Saumur and the production of a report by Radboud University Nijmegen and Erasmus University Rotterdam.*

French / English – February 2005

In the framework of the *Freude am Fluss* project, Etablissement Public Loire organised a discussion and appraisal visit, called "*Intervision Loire 2004*", with the Dutch and German partners concerning the flood risk reduction strategy implemented in the Middle Loire.

This team of German and Dutch experts visited the middle Loire between Nevers and Saumur for one week in October 2004. Everyone taking part in the visit contributed to the document which was collated by Radboud University Nijmegen (Netherlands). This report presents the recommendations that had been presented before the Prefect of the basin and the President of Etablissement Public Loire in October 2004.

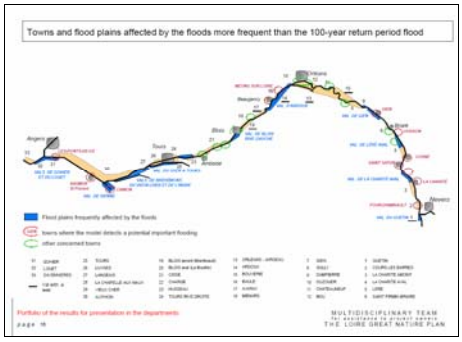
Accompanying the European Experts Mission in the Middle Loire

*Accompanying the **European Experts Mission in the Middle Loire**, on 18 - 22 October 2004, between Nevers and Saumur and production of a report of the week's visit by SOGREAH Consultants.*

French – November 2004

In the context of the previous operation, the Etablissement entrusted SOGREAH Consultants with the task of accompanying and providing technical support for the Dutch and German experts during their week's visit to the middle Loire.

A report on the appraisal mission was produced after this mission. It is a factual report of the week's visit and supplements the report produced by the experts from Radboud University Nijmegen and Erasmus University Rotterdam.

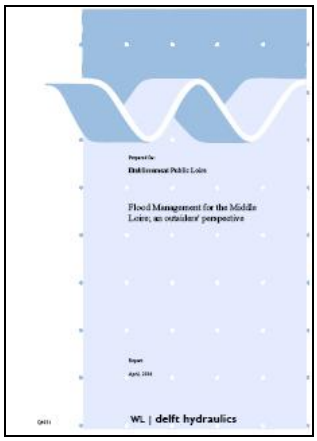


Translation of the basic technical documentation for the Middle Loire strategy

Translating French technical documents into English

French / English – October 2004

This task meant that the *Freude am Fluss* project partners and the people taking part in the appraisal mission on the Middle Loire strategy carried out in October 2004 could be supplied with complete technical information on the Middle Loire's flood management strategy.



An outsider's perspective on flood management in the Middle Loire

*Production of an expert's report with the title "**Flood management for the Middle Loire: an outsider's perspective**" by the Dutch institute Delft Hydraulics.*

French / English – April 2006

Taking the report of the October 2004 European experts mission in the middle Loire as a starting point, Etablissement Public Loire wished to obtain more specific advice on how to proceed with flood management and asked the Dutch institute Delft Hydraulics to study this issue.

The aim of this report is to provide an outsider's view and advice on the implementation of the flood management strategy along the Middle Loire. This report clarifies the options available, the kinds of measures that can be taken, and provides suggestions for the order in which the measures should be undertaken to implement the strategy.

This report also contributed to **the preparation of the *floods* component** of the *Plan Loire Grandeur Nature* for the period 2007-2013.

Retrospective study of the decision-making processes related to flood management of the Loire

Producing, printing and distributing a summary document for the general public concerning the thesis work of Marie Fournier (University of Tours)

French – October 2008

The thesis work of Marie Fournier, a PhD student in urban and spatial planning at the University of Tours, had been funded by the Agence de l'Eau Loire-Bretagne in the framework of the *Freude am Fluss* project. The focus of this work was the Loire's system of protection against flooding and its main goal was to study the drawing up and implementation of the programme to set up spillways on the Loire in the past and the present day.

Etablissement Public Loire wished to produce, print and distribute a version of the document, aimed at a broader public, summarising the work carried out in this context.

Reducing vulnerability to flooding

Reducing the vulnerability of networks in the middle Loire

*Managing the **preliminary study into reducing the vulnerability of networks** related to flooding in the middle Loire.*

French – March 2006

The networks, which today are essential for our society to function, are likely to be affected by floods, just like other objects at stake in flood-prone areas. In the event of a major flood, disruption in a network may have repercussions over a much larger area than the area flooded. It can also alter the functioning of other activities and make managing the crisis much more difficult. After the flood, repairing and replacing damaged facilities can seriously hamper a quick return to normal.

In conducting this “preliminary study”, carried out in partnership with the Government and the Agence de l’Eau Loire-Bretagne, Etablissement Public Loire wished to shed light on this component of the flood risk relating to the water, power, transport and telecommunications networks.

This document is based on an inquiry carried out among the various players concerned by this issue along the middle Loire (authorities, Government departments, managers), each of whom made a contribution. It provides an information base to be shared and proposes guidelines to be implemented, aimed at contributing to better flood risk management in the middle Loire.

Reducing the vulnerability of housing

*Producing a **feedback report** on operations in France and Europe to reduce the vulnerability of housing to flooding, in partnership with the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning.*

French / English – September 2008

In the area of flood risk management, we are now seeing the emergence of prevention policies that are aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the objects at stake. Operational procedures and tools, often experimental in nature, are therefore being implemented, in advance of operations with a much larger scope. But despite the many tools and means of action available in the field of natural risk prevention, there are still very few successful approaches and operations to reduce the vulnerability of housing to natural risks.

French / English – September 2008

In this new environment, Etablissement Public Loire and MEEDDAT (the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning) wanted to obtain feedback from a dozen case studies that were identified in France and also from similar approaches underway in Europe (Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom). This feedback has been compiled into a two-volume document.

- A first volume, "*Presentation of Case Studies*", contains a detailed presentation, with illustrations, of each of the fifteen French and foreign operations selected and analysed in this feedback operation.
- A second volume, "*What Lessons Learned?*", provides a summary based on the analysis of the cases studied, highlighting their special features, illustrating and giving examples of the lessons that can be learned from them and offering recommendations for implementing this type of procedure.

These two documents are intended to spread awareness of the various methods that can be called on to induce property owners to implement initiatives that will reduce the vulnerability of their housing. They are also aimed at providing advice for project initiators in their efforts to launch and implement campaigns to inform, induce and support private individuals.

Consultation tools and methods

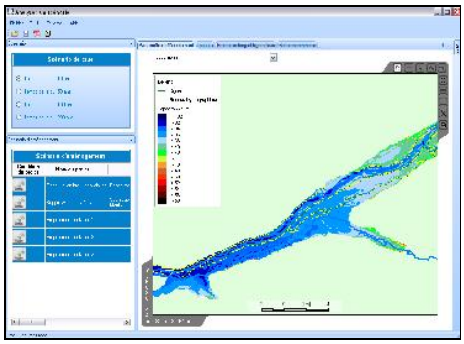
Local implementation of an overall flood risk prevention strategy

Supporting and monitoring ***Nicolas Doussin's CIFRE thesis work in Geography*** *on the topic of improving consultation methods and procedures in the flood risk management field (Asconit-University of Cergy-Pontoise).*

French – April 2008

The Etablissement Public Loire contributed to the funding for Nicolas Doussin's thesis in the framework of a CIFRE agreement (*Convention Industrielle de Formation par la Recherche* – Industrial Agreement for Training through Research) between ASCONIT Consultants and the University of Cergy-Pontoise's Mobility, Networks, Territory and Environment Laboratory. The middle Loire was the main field of study for this thesis, which came within the scope of the *Freude am Fluss* project. A report presenting this work was produced.

Its goal was to help implement the overall flood risk prevention strategy, drawn up in the context of the *Plan Loire Grandeur Nature*, at the local level. In particular, Nicolas Doussin participated in setting up the pilot joint planning approach used in the Val de Bréhémont in 2007.



Loire Planning Kit

Development of a ***demonstration system for consulting and comparing river engineering scenarios*** *by the Delft Hydraulics institute.*

French / English – November 2008

In application of the recommendations of the report "*An outsider's perspective on the strategy to prevent flooding in the Middle Loire*" distributed by EP Loire to the Middle Loire authorities, the Etablissement undertook the purchase and modification of a demonstration system for consulting and comparing river engineering scenarios developed for the Rhine in the Netherlands by the Delft Hydraulics institute and the Dutch Ministry of Public Works.
This software has been adapted and developed by Delft Hydraulics since February 2008 at the Val de Bréhémont experimental site, in line with the consultation procedure undertaken in the valley by EP Loire in 2007 and with the hydraulic study carried out in the same sector by SOGREAH on behalf of the Government.

The Val de Bréhémont pilot consultation procedure

Managing the consultation procedure

Managing the ***experimental consultation procedure for flood risk management and sustainable development in the Val de Bréhémont*** *as part of the "Joint Planning Approach" component of the Freude am Fluss project.*

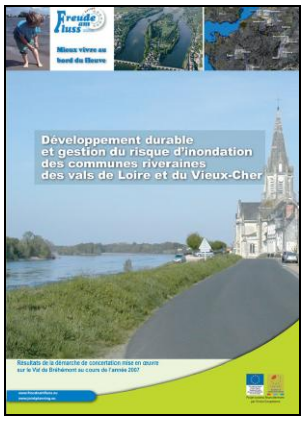
The programme for the *Freude am Fluss* project includes developing and testing methodological tools and principles aimed at encouraging local players and the population to participate in defining flood risk management projects.

The joint planning approach for flood risk management in the Val de Bréhémont falls within the scope of this programme. Organised by Etablissement Public Loire, with the support of Asconit Consultants, this procedure must make it possible to achieve a consensus and mobilise all stakeholders so as to implement projects that enable the risk of flooding to be reduced, and at the same time promote sustainable development of the alluvial plain.

More than 10 plenary meetings and discussion groups were organised in the valley between March and November 2007. A space dedicated to this procedure, intended to encourage the dissemination and exchange of information with the participants, was also created on the *Freude am Fluss* project's website.

At the end of this period of working together and fruitful discussions, the procedure's partners proposed organising a public meeting so as to involve the valley's population in the deliberations taking place. This meeting was held on 10 December 2007 at Lignières-de-Touraine.

It can be noted that **this pilot procedure is now a benchmark for implementing valley studies to be conducted in the middle Loire in the framework of the *Plan Loire* 2007–2013** (cf. the meeting on 20th June 2008 at Sigloy, Loiret concerning the Government's launch of studies into the Orleans valleys).



Joint production of a strategy document and a presentation brochure

*Production and distribution of two documents: "**Operational strategy and action plan** for the sustainable development and flood risk management for the riverside communities of the Loire and Vieux-Cher valleys" and "Sustainable development and flood risk management for the riverside communities of the Loire and Vieux-Cher valleys"*

French / English – December 2007

As part of the conclusion of the first phase of the consultation procedure for flood risk management in the Val de Bréhémont, the Etablissement asked Asconit Consultants to produce a framework document, "*Operational strategy and action plan for the sustainable development and flood risk management for the riverside communities of the Loire and Vieux-Cher valleys*", in collaboration with the players involved in the procedure.

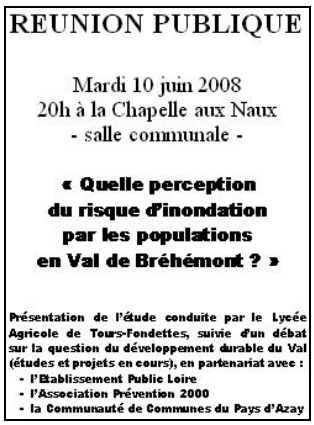
A presentation and summary document for the general public, "*Sustainable development and flood risk management for the riverside communities of the Loire and Vieux-Cher valleys*", was also produced as part of this operation.

These two documents were widely distributed during the procedure and will be used as a basis when consultation resumes with the new elected officials and municipal teams in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Public meeting at Lignières-de-Touraine: The Val de Bréhémont consultation procedure

*Organising a **public meeting at Lignières-de-Touraine** on 10th December 2007, to present the work carried out as part of the consultation procedure for the Val de Bréhémont.*

At the end of this joint work carried out between March and November 2007 as part of the consultation procedure for managing the flood risk in the Val de Bréhémont, the procedure's partners proposed organising a public meeting in order to involve the valley's population in the deliberations underway. This meeting, which took place on 10th December in a packed room at Lignières-de-Touraine, was the occasion for presenting a review of the work carried out to the inhabitants of the valley and the surrounding areas and holding a debate on the perspectives opened up by the procedure.


REUNION PUBLIQUE

Mardi 10 juin 2008
20h à la Chapelle aux Naux
- salle communale -

« Quelle perception du risque d'inondation par les populations en Val de Bréhémont ? »

Présentation de l'étude conduite par le Lycée Agricole de Tours-Fondettes, suivie d'un débat sur la question du développement durable du Val (études et projets en cours), en partenariat avec :
- **l'Etablissement Public Loire**
- **l'Association Prévention 2000**
- **la Communauté de Communes du Pays d'Azay**

Public meeting at Chapelle-aux-Naux: The Val de Bréhémont consultation procedure

Participating in ***the 10th June 2008 public meeting at Chapelle-aux-Naux, "What perception of the risk of flooding does the population of the Val de Bréhémont have?"****, jointly organised with the Fondettes agricultural college.*

On Tuesday 10th June 2008 a public meeting was held concerning the flood risk in the Val de Bréhémont: "*What is the local populations' risk perception and what sustainable development for the v*alley*?"* ». This meeting was part of the consultation procedure for managing the flood risk in the Val de Bréhémont, which had led to a first public meeting in December 2007 at Lignières-de-Touraine.

The aim of this new meeting was to continue and broaden the dialogue with the population of the valley. The special feature of this meeting lay in the fact that the event had been organised by the students of the Fondettes agricultural college (*Lycée Agricole Public de Tours-Fondettes*). They therefore presented the results of a year's study in which they had interviewed a large number of the area's stakeholders and carried out a survey among the population of the valley's communities concerning the risk of flooding.

Events

Throughout its duration, the *Freude am Fluss* project scheduled a series of conferences on managing flood risks and improving living conditions along waterways. These events were organised in each of the project's partner countries. The aim of these events was in particular to encourage the sharing of experiences and practices between public authorities and Dutch, German and French riverside municipalities situated on large rivers. Intended for elected officials and the public at large, their objective was to answer the many questions the various players were asked by presenting examples and selected actual projects along the Loire, the Rhine and other large European rivers.

Colloquium in Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Organising the participation of a Loire delegation at the ***Nijmegen Freude am Fluss colloquium*** *held 25-26 May 2005 in the Netherlands.*

The town of Nijmegen in the Netherlands hosted the first of the *Freude am Fluss* project's colloquia on the occasion of the *3rd International Symposium on Flood Defence*, organised by the Ministry for Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

This event was organised by Nijmegen University, which is in charge of overall management for the *Freude am Fluss* project, and brought together a large number of elected officials and representatives from German, French and Dutch municipalities. It was an opportunity for presenting the spirit and content of the *Freude am Fluss* project to the invited guests and sharing experiences and innovations that enabled the project's philosophy to be developed and implemented.

The following questions were addressed in particular:

- How can you increase the public's consciousness and responsibilities, and improve communication between the authorities and the community?
- What can local authorities do to implement the *Freude am Fluss* philosophy at the local level?
- What could national and regional authorities do to help the local authorities implement the *Freude am Fluss* philosophy?

Seminar on reducing the vulnerability of networks

*Organising a **seminar of feedback and discussion on reducing the vulnerability of networks** in relation to flooding, held on 9th June 2005 at Orleans.*

The seminar "*Stakes and perspectives for reducing the vulnerability of networks to flooding in the Middle Loire*" was organised as part of the preliminary study into reducing the vulnerability of networks to flooding in the Middle Loire managed by the Etablissement Public Loire.

This one-day seminar ended the first two phases of the study, "Systematic collection of information concerning the networks exposed to the risk of flooding" and "Organised analytical reconstruction of the operation of the networks and the players".

The two main objectives of this meeting were to reconstruct the results of the "inventory" produced by the study and to start defining guidelines and recommendations for reducing the vulnerability of networks in relation to flooding over the territory.

"Risks and Leisure along major European rivers" colloquium

Organising a European colloquium on 22nd and 23rd September 2005 at Orleans as part of the second Loire Festival.

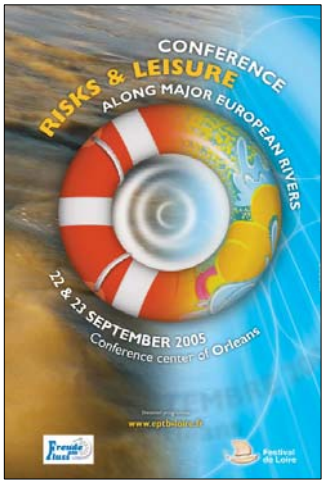
The "Risks and leisure along major European rivers" colloquium, organised by Etablissement Public Loire in partnership with the City of Orleans, was held on 22nd and 23rd September 2005 at the Orleans Conference Centre, on the occasion of the 2nd Loire Festival.

A range of topics were covered during the two days of the conference based on the following questions:

- Is there a common approach in Europe to the development and use of land alongside large rivers?
- Is this approach compatible with the flood risks they might represent?
- What are the respective roles and expectations of public authorities and actors in the field?

The discussions that took place included representatives from municipalities from the Rhine (Germany and the Netherlands), the town of Krakow, which is twinned with Orleans, and European organisations taking part in projects on different rivers. This gave the event a real European dimension.

This event was very successful: in addition to the interest of the topics covered and the exchange of ideas and experiences, more than 300 registrations were recorded over the two days and there were fifty participants from abroad.



French /English – September 2005

A report of the contributions from each of the speakers during the two days was produced in French and English and distributed to the participants. The proceedings were then published in French and English in the Spring 2006 issue of the review of the *Association des Etudes Ligériennes* (Loire Studies Association).

French /English – May 2006

Colloquium in Karlsruhe, Germany

Organising the participation of a Loire delegation at the ***Karlsruhe Freude am Fluss colloquium*** *held 19-20 June 2006 in Germany.*

This colloquium was organised by ILN (*Institut für Landschaftsökologie und Naturschutz* of Bühl, Germany) and the City of Karlsruhe on the occasion of the city's anniversary. Held in the premises of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, it covered the issues of flood protection and leisure activities along European rivers and was attended by a large number of elected officials and representatives from French, Dutch and German riverside municipalities situated on the Loire, Rhine and the Meuse. Visits to typical sites along the Rhine illustrated the fact that flood prevention can be compatible with municipal development.

This third colloquium was the occasion for finalising the selection of the communities that in the context of the project were going to be accompanied in making changes to their development plans along the broad lines supported by the *Freude am Fluss* project. The following communities were selected:

- West Maas en Waal and Tiel in the Netherlands,
- Fourchambault and Sermoise-sur-Loire (conurbation of Nevers) in France,
- Neuenburg am Rhein in Germany.

"Yesterday the 1856 flood… How do we prepare for an event of such magnitude today and tomorrow?" colloquium

Participating in the organisation of the colloquium organised by ADN and the City of Nevers (23-24 November 2006).

This two-day colloquium devoted to the commemoration of the historic flood of 1856 and to flood management, was held in Nevers on 22-23 November 2006 in the context of the *Freude am Fluss* project.

It was organised by the Nevers Conurbation Committee in partnership with the Etablissement Public Loire and the City of Nevers and in collaboration with CEPRI (*Centre européen de prévention du risque d'inondation*, the European flood risk prevention centre) and the *Association des Etudes Ligériennes* (Loire Studies Association). It received financial support from the European Union, EP Loire and the Government.

This event, which brought together many elected officials, technicians, players from associations and universities, and foreign representatives, was a great success. The presentations and discussions that took place during these two days covered details of the 1856 Loire flood, the lessons to be drawn from the December 2003 flood, and also recent feedback from major floods in Europe and throughout the world. These days were also an opportunity to present the many initiatives that Loire authorities are undertaking today to handle such events.

"Living in a flood-prone area" conference

*Participating in the organisation of the "**Living in a flood-prone area**" conference in partnership with the conurbation and city of Orleans in the context of the third Loire Festival (21st September 2007).*

The Etablissement welcomed all of the *Freude am Fluss* project partners to Orleans on the occasion of the third Loire Festival, on 20th and 21st September 2007.

During this meeting, the purpose of which was to review progress on the project, a field visit presenting AglO's projects (General Interest Programme – PIG (*Projet d'intérêt général*) – to adapt dwellings to flooding, the Loire park, reconstruction of the Orleans canal) and a conference on the topic "*Living in a flood-prone area*" were organised in partnership with the departments of the conurbation and City of Orleans.

Presentation of the Freude am Fluss project at the PREVIRISQ show in Tours

The Freude am Fluss project, its results and its deliverables were presented and distributed on 9th, 10th and 11th October 2008 at Tours, as part of the 2nd PREVIRISQ show.

The professional trade show PREVIRISQ was held on 9th, 10th and 11th October 2008 at the Tours Exhibition Centre.

Open to the general public, this is a major national-scale event that is host in particular to authorities and technical departments from the Government, municipalities and their groups in charge of these issues, and also the 10000 mayors of the French communities most directly concerned by flooding.

The *Freude am Fluss* project was presented at the Etablissement Public Loire's stand and at the Radboud University stand specially dedicated to the project in this show. This was an opportunity to present and distribute all of the project's results and deliverables to the visitors at this show. In particular the show was the occasion for the exclusive national publication of the document "*Fifteen initiatives to reduce housing vulnerability to natural risks*" produced in the framework of the project.

A conference dedicated to *Freude am Fluss* project results was also organised during the show PREVIRISQ.

Conference "The European Freude am Fluss project and flood management in the Middle Loire"

Organising a final conference on 11th October 2008, dedicated to ***flood risk management in the Middle Loire and the results obtained by the French partners of the Freude am Fluss project****, as part of the 2nd PREVIRISQ show at Tours.*

Within this show, a conference was specially devoted to presenting the main activities carried out in the middle Loire in the context of *Freude am Fluss*, with a view to the closing of the European project in December 2008. The round table organised during this conference focused on the perspectives of flood risk management in the Middle Loire.

This half-day conference was organised by the Etablissement Public Loire in association with the Conurbation of Nevers and the University of Tours. Proceedings of this conference are available on the *Freude am Fluss* website.

Final conference for the Freude am Fluss project

Organising the participation of a Loire delegation at the final conference for the European project held on 22nd, 23rd and 24th October at Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

This international conference, entitled "*Space for the River, Space for People; Dilemmas and Directions for Management and Planning*", was organised by Radboud University, Nijmegen, in the Netherlands, in charge of overall management for the project.

Held on 22nd, 23rd and 24th October at the Nijmegen Conference Centre, this conference was the occasion for a presentation of the results and advances obtained by the partners in the framework of the *Freude am Fluss* project to all European players involved in flood risk management along rivers (researchers, managers, municipalities). During this event, 16 theme-based workshops presented the technical, environmental, social, institutional, economical and political innovations and advances for improving the management of rivers and flood-prone areas.

Proceedings of this conference are available on the *Freude am Fluss* website.

Support activities and interchanges with the project partners

Intervisions: European exchange visits

Participating in the "Intervisions" ***exchange visits*** *organised in Germany and the Netherlands by the project partners: the middle Loire (2004), Beuningen (May 2005), the upper Rhine (April 2006) and the lower Rhine and Meuse (May 2007), Switzerland (May 2008).*

The "Intervisions" were the occasion for bringing together the project's various French, Dutch and German players for an outsider's perspective on the strategies for reducing the risk of flooding implemented in each of the three partner countries. Six Intervisions were organised during the project: in the Netherlands, in France, in Germany and In Switzerland.

Partner meetings

Organising Freude am Fluss ***partner meetings*** *and site visits in France (Orleans 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, Nevers 2006, Paris 2008) and participating in partner meetings abroad.*

Throughout the *Freude am Fluss* project, Etablissement Public Loire organised all the project's partner meetings and site visits that took place in France. EP Loire also took part in the working groups organised by the other partners in Germany and the Netherlands.

The Conurbation of Nevers

Summary report
April 2008

Support for the actions undertaken by the French partners

Supporting and monitoring the actions carried out by the ***Conurbation of Nevers*** *and the* ***Agence de l'Eau Loire-Bretagne*** *in the framework of the Freude am Fluss project.*

Initially the only French partner in the *Freude am Fluss* project, the Etablissement Public Loire encouraged French organisations to join this project. EP Loire then supported and monitored the actions of these new French partners (Agence de l'eau Loire-Bretagne, the Conurbation of Nevers and the University of Tours).

Websites

www.freudeamfluss.fr

*Designing and setting up the **multilingual Freude am Fluss website** and administering the French portion.*

This site presents the *Freude am Fluss* project in its entirety and the large number of actions carried out by its partners. It forms a centre for discussing and distributing the results obtained in the framework of the project.

www.freudeamflussfilm.eu

*Jointly managing the creation of a **website and a multilingual interactive audio-visual DVD** (French, English, German and Dutch).*

This site and DVD present an overview of various notable sites and pilot projects on the Rhine, Meuse and Loire in Germany, France and the Netherlands in the form of interactive pages and video clips.

www.freudeamfluss.fr/fre/DPC

*Setting up and managing a **space devoted to the Val de Bréhémont experiment.***

This Internet space means that publishing and discussing information is made easier for the people taking part in the consultation approach undertaken in the valley.

www.jointplanning.eu

*Participating in developing a multilingual site dedicated to the "**Joint Planning Approach**" component of the project.*

This specialised site presents and explains, with illustrations, the principles of the Joint Planning Approach developed in the framework of the project.

IV – Lessons and perspectives

The interchanges and actions undertaken since July 2003 with the partners of the European Interreg 3B project "*Freude am Fluss* – mieux vivre au bord du fleuve" have constituted decisive factors in the implementation of the third phase of the *Plan Loire Grandeur Nature* for the period 2007-2013.

The visits to Germany and the Netherlands, the conferences enabling discussions between municipalities from the three countries and the appraisal missions in the Middle Loire region have contributed the perspectives of outsiders and instructive feedback concerning current flood management policies. These elements have contributed to the deliberations for the Plan Loire 2007-2013 and to preparing the future management plan specified by the European directive of 23rd October 2007.

An interregional projects contract for the Loire (CPIER 2007-2013) was signed by the Government, the Agence de l'Eau Loire-Bretagne and the Etablissement Public Loire on 2nd July 2007. An inter-regional strategic framework document was appended to this contract; this concerned the follow-up for the *Plan Loire* for the period 2007-2013, which was subjected to broad consultation carried out in compliance with the principles of the *Freude am Fluss* project. With regard to the component on flood risk management at the Loire basin level, this document made an explicit reference to the *Freude am Fluss* project and Etablissement Public Loire performs in particular the management of the "*Flood Prevention*" platform for the whole Loire basin.

As part of this, the Etablissement's task is to prepare a flood risk management plan for the Middle Loire, in application of the European flood directive adopted on 23rd October 2007, which will be based in particular on the recommendations drawn up by the Dutch institute WL Delft Hydraulics as part of the *Freude am Fluss* project and the Joint Planning Approach developed by the project partners and tested on the Loire at the Val de Bréhémont.

The *Freude am Fluss* project looked at the development of consultation methods allowing the local players to play a central role in the procedures for developing flood risk prevention projects in their area. The research work into the local application of a global flood risk management policy and the adaptation of Dutch methods for consultation with the local players in the Val de Bréhémont are also benchmark elements and are now taken into account in the context of the implementation of the large-scale studies of the valleys undertaken as part of the *Plan Loire* 2007-2013.

The Loire valley of Blois

Finally, in line with the methodological developments realised during the previous phases of the *Plan Loire*, Etablissement Public Loire has produced studies intended to promote and encourage municipalities to implement policies for reducing vulnerability to flooding. The *Freude am Fluss* project has offered the opportunity to increase awareness of this issue among the Loire basin's municipalities and players. The preliminary study into reducing the vulnerability of the networks and feedback on national and European procedures for reducing the vulnerability of housing shed new clarity on these issues.

The European *Freude am Fluss* project thus leaves a rich legacy at the heart of current concerns. All these elements constitute significant advances and major contributions made by the project and its partners with regard to progress in flood risk management in the Loire basin.

The "*Freude am Fluss* – mieux vivre au bord du fleuve" project, which was initiated in 2003, end in 2008. It aims to contribute to the better development and better management of flood-prone valleys in Germany, France and the Netherlands. This project is not limited to just studying new solutions; it also puts some of them into application in a context of close collaboration between the public authorities and riverside residents.

Centred on the Rhine, the Loire and the Meuse, this project brings together the three partner countries in a consortium that combines the social, natural and technical sciences, scientific experts and policy authorities. The Centre for Sustainable Management of Resources at Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands is the lead partner of this project.

This document presents a summary of the activities and actions managed by Etablissement Public Loire as French partner during this project. The accompanying CD-ROM provides the reader who wishes more details on a specific topic with the many communication documents, publications and reports produced as part of the *Freude am Fluss* project.

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